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"May we not be alive to see anything so dreadful!" exclaimed Don Paolo devoutly.

"No, you and I shall not see it. But those little children who are playing with chestnuts down there in the court—they will see it. The world is uneasy and dreads the very name of war, lest war should become universal if it once breaks out. Tell your brother that."

## VII.

## AN OCTOGENARIAN WOOPER.

IN "Bledisloe"\* there is the impress of strong native talent dealing with a well worn subject in somewhat 'prentice fashion. A sporting English country rector overhead in debt sees a way out of trouble by marrying off his oldest daughter to an octogenarian nabob. A young man of mixed aristocratic and plebeian descent, and with some objectionable family antecedents, but noble in bearing and in purpose, has awakened a glimmer of love in the lady's breast, and naturally feels decidedly blue at the prospect of the marriage. The young lady believes it to be her duty to go to martyrdom for the sake of her father, whose debts the aged Croesus is to assume immediately after the marriage ceremony. Around this central romance the author weaves a readable little story, designed to bring out some of the special features of country life in England. The scene is laid on the banks of the Severn, near Gloucester. A peculiarity of the incoming tide as it meets the swift downward current of the river at that part of its course is a rapid and turbulent rising of the level of the water, advantage of which is taken by vessels desiring to get in or out of the port of Gloucester. This peculiarity is designated "The Bore," and plays an interesting part in the story. Two young American ladies appear at Bledisloe as inheritors of an ancient estate of moderate value, and are drawn into the plot as spectators. The reader looks into the pictures of English life with the eyes of these fair damsels, and the impressions likely to be produced under such circumstances are, we think, fairly described. We find the customary bevy of healthful English girls, and of young men who can ride across country, but one of the American girls astonishes them all by her skill and daring on horseback, while she also captures the heart of a crusty woman-hating bachelor cousin who "hates Americans."

A great deal of the book is taken up with minor incidents and description, and must be voted commonplace, but there are indications of power in the sketches of the principal characters, particularly that of the aristocratic, selfish, easy going rector, and the ancient party who aspires to carry off the fair prize. The two men most interested meet, and the younger one begins to speak his mind, but the old gentleman is his match at an argument. "A man who has lived his life" began Irwine, "can afford to be indulgent to such an appeal as I now have to make —."

"Nay! that argument will not stand," smiled Sir Ralph. "Life is never lived until the final hour is come. Life grows dearer as its sands run out; because I am fourscore years I cannot afford to spare a single hour of happiness to you who own youth, genius, and success, with a physique the very gods might envy."

The author does not indiscriminately denounce disparity of age in wedlock. "The man of sixty, whose clean soul has lived in God's sight with child-like desire to grow near to heaven, is a younger, fitter companion for a maiden than a blasé youth of twenty." Unfortunately our octogenarian had drifted far beyond sixty,

\* "Bledisloe; or, Aunt Pen's American Nieces." An international story. By Ada M. Trotter. Cupples & Hurd.

and was never suspected of any child-like desire to grow near to heaven, but he was the most cool and considerate of wooers, and how near he came to being a winner the tale itself must say.

## VIII.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

AMONG men of letters, educators, and readers of general literature there is an increasing demand for books on special subjects, which shall be as far removed from the tedious prolixity of the cyclopædia as from the realms of fiction. Between Miss Muhlbach's portrayal of Napoleon, for instance, and the minute analysis of his life by Hazlitt or Scott, there is place for a brief biography, giving in concise form the important events of his life, yet pleasantly colored by the imagination of a master of literature. The busy man has no time to spend in reading the larger work ; the other does not contain the facts for which he seeks.

Such brief standard biographies the Rev. E. E. Hale supplies in "*Lights of Two Centuries* ;" \* and while the author claims to have wrought for those interested in educational work, his book will be found of service to any worker in the field of literature, art, or science, as well as of interest to the general reader.

The biographies are arranged under the general divisions of artists and sculptors, prose writers, composers, poets, and inventors, and the names selected, usually ten under each heading, are intended to include the master minds in each department. The fairness of omitting the names of Lamb and Addison from the list of master prose writers may be questioned. Lovers of art will agree that the selection of Watteau, Hogarth, Reynolds, Canova, Thorwaldsen, Turner, Ingres, Barye, Millet, and Bastien-Lepage, fairly represents the school of great artists and sculptors. Mr. Hale justly says: "Many of the workers whose objects have been the enlightenment and happiness of the human race have been so bound together in their labors that they have, in a measure, ceased to exist as individuals." And, "If in these pages the reader fails to find the name of some favorite writer, composer, artist, or inventor, let him feel sure that the omission was made with reluctance on the part of the editors of this book."

In this age of profuse Shakespearian literature it seems strange to say that Mrs. O'Connor's book† fills a "long felt want;" yet this is exactly what may be said of it. It is a compact, thorough, and handy compilation, a condensation of the expensive and rare indices and concordances which have previously been published. It will prove a great convenience to the casual reader of Shakespeare, and schools will find it the best book of reference that has appeared for some time.

In the October number of *THE REVIEW*, Mr. Allen Thorndike Rice, contrasting the recent progress of the United States with the progress of Great Britain during the Victorian era, said : "In the arts of typography and illustration we are far ahead of the United Kingdom." The truth of his remark is exemplified by a work recently published by the J. B. Lippincott Company.§ Six etchings of remarkable power, and most beautifully reproduced, illustrate the text of an essay

\* "*Lights of Two Centuries*." Edited by Rev. E. E. Hale. Illustrated with fifty portraits. A. S. Barnes & Co.

† "*An Index to the Works of Shakspeare*." By Evangeline M. O'Connor. D. Appleton & Co.

‡ "*Faust: The Legend and the Poem*." By William S. Walsh, with etchings by Hermann Faber. J. B. Lippincott Company.